

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SARIE TOSTE OF  
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sarie Toste, a distinguished educator in Humboldt County, California, and a recognized leader in educating young children on the importance of learning to save money. Sarie spearheads a program in elementary schools across Northern California that helps child learn the fundamentals of financial literacy.

Sarie initiated the first "Learn to Earn" program 11 years ago as the superintendent at Pacific Union Elementary School, when she realized that the children did not understand that they could save their money, watch it grow and help realize future dreams.

"Learn to Earn" is a collaborative effort with a regional financial institution, Umpqua Bank, which provides weekly on-campus banking. The children sign up, deposit \$1 and receive a passbook. Every week a bank representative visits the school and accepts student deposits. The children set savings goals, calculate interest earned and watch their account grow.

With over seventy schools throughout Northern California, the nearly 6,000 young savers have banked \$1.5 million making "Learn to Earn" the largest, most successful school savings program in California. The curriculum that has been developed helps teachers introduce the basic concepts of sound money management.

This is in sharp contrast to the savings habits of our nation's adults. Today, America's savings rate is negative, the lowest rate since the Great Depression. Even more alarming is the dramatic increase in personal debt, which has grown over the past decade by approximately 300 percent.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate that today, on "National Teach Children to Save Day" we recognize the outstanding commitment of Sarie Toste for her foresight and dedication to the future of our children and teaching them how to "Learn to Earn."

TRIBUTE TO MS. ANNIE LUU

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Annie Luu, an accomplished Gonzaga University student from Colorado's 6th District. Ms. Luu and a team of fellow Gonzaga students were recently honored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,

becoming finalists in the third annual EPA student design competition.

Since 2004, the EPA has honored college students from across the country for their research efforts towards environmental sustainability through the "P3—People, Prosperity, and the Planet" contest. This year, only 41 proposed projects were chosen for development out of more than 100 submissions. The 41 student teams will exhibit their designs on the National Mall on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at the National Sustainable Design Expo. The National Academy of Engineering will judge the competition and recommend the winners to the EPA.

Ms. Luu and her teammates will present their project, entitled "Decentralized Waste Treatment and Energy Recovery in Rwanda," during this event.

Ms. Luu and her peers should be commended for their commitment and contributions to environmental sustainability. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE MESQUITE  
CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate the Mesquite Championship Rodeo and its 50th anniversary. This fine organization has entertained a wide variety of people over the years, from young children to our Nation's Presidents and foreign heads-of-state.

The Mesquite Rodeo opened its chutes in 1958 and has become an integral part of the community and the State of Texas; so much so that in 1993 the Texas legislature proclaimed the city of Mesquite the "Rodeo Capital of Texas."

Every Friday and Saturday night during the rodeo season, thousands of visitors experience the excitement of our Nation's original western sport: the rodeo. From cowboys to clowns, and fast horses to big bulls, the Mesquite Rodeo has come to exemplify championship rodeos. My family and I can attest to the entertainment value of the events and showmanship that the Mesquite Rodeo is known for throughout the United States.

As the congressional representative of Mesquite, Texas, home to the Mesquite Championship Rodeo, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today in the United States House of Representatives.

DON IMUS

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my opinion concerning the offensive remarks of radio personality Don Imus. His insensitive comments, directed at the Rutgers University women's basketball team after the team's loss to Tennessee in the NCAA tournament, exceeded the boundaries of humor, even by Mr. Imus's standards. While I recognize Mr. Imus's right to free speech under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, I vehemently condemn his remarks and support his dismissal from MSNBC and CBS broadcasting companies.

Imus's deplorable comments have overshadowed the Rutgers Scarlet Knights' record of success. Starting the season with 2 wins and 4 losses, the Scarlet Knights overcame great odds through their hard work, determination, and dedication. In the face of adversity, the team made a triumphant comeback by becoming the Eastern Division champions, which later set the stage for their first-ever appearance in a national championship competition. So what should have been the team's finest hour became its worse hour caused by the regrettable actions of Mr. Imus.

Yet amidst the Imus controversy, this remarkable group of student-athletes has responded to the situation with dignity and grace, which is emblematic of the caliber of these women. The Rutgers Scarlet Knights is comprised of five freshmen and five upperclassmen. Of the freshman class, each student has a combined grade point average of 3.0. These accomplished women are valedictorians of their class, future doctors, musical prodigies, and Girl Scouts. These women exemplify beauty, strength, and integrity—the very opposite of Imus's characterization of them.

The dismissal of Don Imus sends a powerful message to not only these young women but to the rest of Nation. The message: Enough is enough. Racism and sexism in any of its ugly forms will no longer be tolerated, not even for the sake of a good laugh or good ratings.

HONORING THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN NAPA, CA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 95th anniversary of St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Napa, California. This school, and the associated Catholic Church, has been a

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